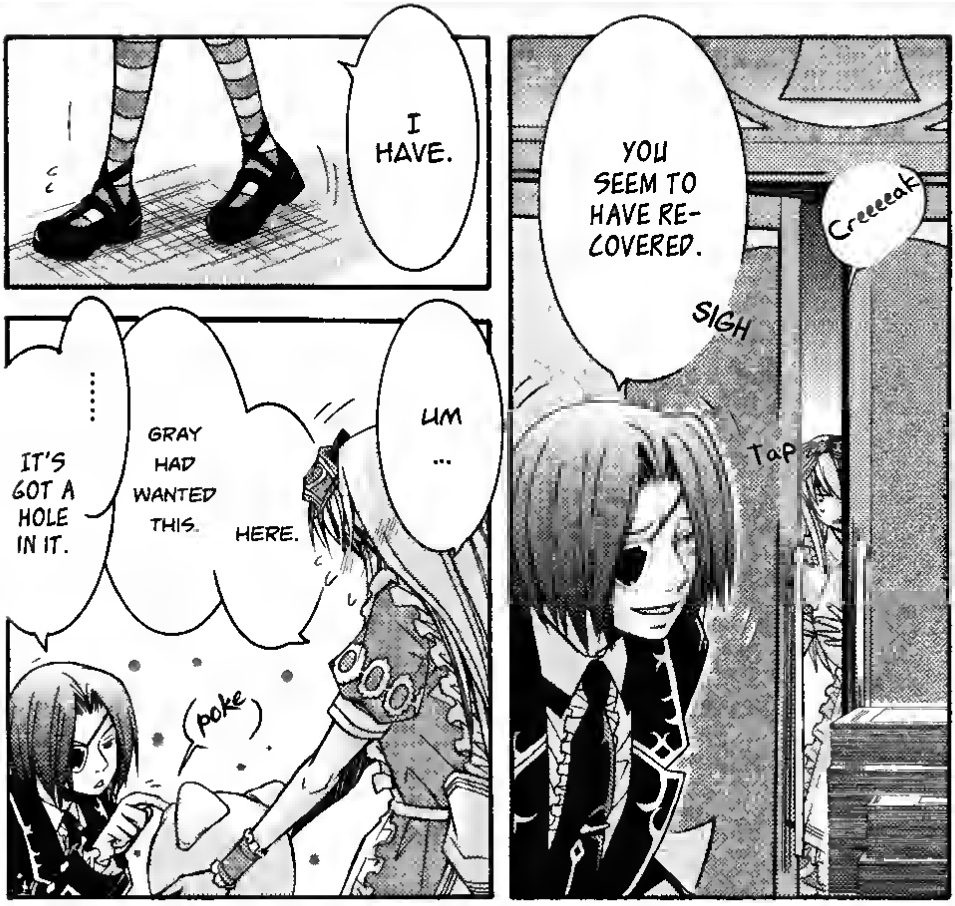
"I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN..."
EVEN THOUGH THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT THAT TIME...
squeeze
What's the matter? Aren't you coming in?
JUMP

ba-dump
chuckle
Gray
MY HEART'S NOT READY YET!
NIGHT-MARE!?
UM-
I-!
Isn't here.
panic
panic


I HAVE.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE RE-COVERED.
Creeeeak
SIGH
Tap
UM ...
GRAY HAD WANTED THIS.
HERE.
IT'S GOT A HOLE IN IT.
(poke)

WHAP
HEY!
THAT THEY DO OUR INJURIES, AT LEAST
INJURIES HEAL QUICKLY...
THIS REALLY IS A USEFUL WORLD.
TRUE... BUT A LITTLE WHILE AGO IT WAS ALL BEATEN UP AND COVERED IN DIRT.
NOW, SOMEHOW, IT'S ALL CLEAN AGAIN.
WHEN THE TIME CHANGES, INJURIES HEAL.
EVEN IF IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE TIME CHANGE TO HEAL,
"WHEN THE TIME OF DAY CHANGES," THINGS RETURN TO WHAT THEY WERE BEFORE.
POUT
WHAT'S MORE, EVERYONE IS REPLACE-ABLE WHEN THEY DIE.
FLOAT
HOW-EVER,
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE REST OF US. PLEASE TAKE CARE, ALICE.

I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO BE REPLACED.
FWIP
IT'S TRUE THAT WHEN SOMEONE WE KNOW WELL PASSES AWAY,
WE DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO RESPOND.
BUT THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY MATTERS IS OUR ROLE.
.....
YOU SHOULD RETURN THIS YOURSELF.
POOF
Ah...
I DON'T WANT HIM TO HATE ME ANY MORE THAN HE DOES ALREADY...
YOU'RE A REAL MESS...
PHEW...
squeeze
CLUNK
.....
But...
CAN'T BE AROUND YOU...

THE FACT THAT I KNOCKED THE CUP OVER REMAINS.
STILL-!
HOW-EVER...
COME AGAIN?
Oops!
roll
JUST LEAVE IT BE, IT'LL RETURN TO HOW IT WAS SOON.
Is there anything to wipe this up with!?
Just a-
Nightmare! The paper-work, the paper-work!
EVEN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE,
THAT GUY'S PAST WILL STILL REMAIN.
drip drip
LIKEWISE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOW IN THE PAST THAT I KNOCKED THIS CUP OVER, THE CHANCE THAT I MAY DO SO AGAIN IN THE FUTURE REMAINS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S NOT THAT HE WANTS TO AVOID YOU- HE'S SCARED.

YOU SHATTER THE BALANCE HE TRIES SO HARD TO MAINTAIN.
SO THEN...
GRAY IS AFRAID OF ME?
MORE ACCURATELY, WHAT HE'S AFRAID OF
IS HIS TRUE NATURE BEING EXPOSED.
THAT MAN DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO PROTECT THE THINGS MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM.
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND, BUT...
I FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING WOULD BE BETTER IF I WEREN'T HERE.
As usual, I didn't understand a word of your explanation.
.....
heheh
THAT'S FINE.
DON'T FRET IT.

If so, then
That's not fair!
Would you really ditch me this close to the Assembly when you're needed most!?
Have pity on me!
And if you're not here, Gray will be in an awful mood!
Things are going to get even busier from now on!
I won't let you get away!
WAH!
B-BUT-
IF I'M HERE, THEN GRAY-
HMPH!!
SO HE'LL BE A LITTLE OUT OF SORTS. ALL THE BETTER FOR ME.
TH-THEN... UNTIL THE ASSEM-BLY...
I WOULD RATHER YOU ALWAYS STAY HERE.
NIGHT-MARE...

What exactly is this Assembly?
HUH?
Thank goodness I ran into you, Boris.
Nightmare's explanation made absolutely no sense.
IT'S NOT EVEN LIKE IT WOULD BE ALL THAT HARD TO EXPLAIN IT...
ONE OF THE RULES IS THAT WE MUST ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY.
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.
Since it's an "assembly"
WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT THERE?
It's like the Ball from the Country of Hearts in that sense.
THAT'S UP FOR THE HOST TO DECIDE- IN THIS CASE, MR. DEMON.
WE DON'T REALLY HAVE AN AGENDA, WE JUST HAVE TO ALL GATHER IN ONE PLACE
ONCE AGAIN, I FAIL TO SEE THE POINT IN IT

ALICE.
YES?
.....
SO IT SEEMS.
THAT'S BECAUSE THERE ISN'T A POINT TO IT.
LICK
WHA-

ICE CR-
YOU HAD ICE CREAM ON YOUR FACE! ♡
blush
WHAT-!?
To me he still looks more like a human boy, so it'd be nice if he would have a little more prudence.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
It's true that he's a cat, but still...
sigh
wobble
I STILL HAD A LOT MORE TO ASK BORIS.
GEEZ...
But then...

This was different from then.
That time... it was because I was shaking from the explosions.
Instantly all I could think of was Gray.
Nothing else mattered...
So I followed after him...
Even though I said I wouldn't make the same mistake again-
No,
This is different from then.

I HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH MY HOME TUTOR.
HE WAS MY FIRST BOYFRIEND AND I WAS UTTERLY ENTHRALLED
I WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN MY OWN EXCITEMENT
THAT I
I'M IN LOVE WITH LORINA.
SO I CAN'T BE WITH YOU ANYMORE...
Eh..?
By Lorina..
You mean my older sister?
I COULDN'T SEE OR THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE

...
ONCE AGAIN,
THINGS HAVE FALLEN APART.
ONCE AGAIN
RIGHT NOW... I CAN'T BE AROUND YOU.
I'VE...
GWA AAH!
Hm?
Ack !!

Ah!
It's Big Sis!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON!?
Big Sis?
JUMP
THUD
You came to visit us, didn't you~!
Whoa-
Eep-!
What's up?
Um- uh, that's-
Mmm~ What a wonderful scent.
It's been too long since I've had a cup of tea.
THAT'S ALL?
EHHH!
I-I HAD SOMETHING TO ASK BLOOD.

You've already eaten your piece of cake, Blood?
Here, another!
IT'S ALSO BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE HAD CARROT CAKE.
Have as much as you like
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? I'M NOT GOING TO EAT THIS!
Take it back!
plop
swish
But why are we having tea while sitting under a tree?
Is this a picnic or something?
SIMPLY BECAUSE WE CAN, THAT'S WHY.
HEY!
plop
This time, I'll let you two have seconds too!
SHAKE
SHAKE
... I FIGURED AS MUCH.
A- are you threatening me?
I'm not taking a single piece more of that cake!
EEP!
glance
... THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT, ISN'T THERE?
IT'S ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY...
UM. THAT IS...
WELL? WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

WHEN... WHEN I WOKE UP I WAS IN A ROOM IN THE TOWER OF CLOVER.
I HAD NO IDEA HOW I GOT THERE AFTER PASSING OUT IN THAT ALLEY.
HOW, YOU ASK?
AFTER YOU PASSED OUT FROM THAT DRUG, I TOOK YOU TO A HOTEL.
FROM THERE, THE LIZARD CAME TO GET YOU.
... I SEE
SO IT WAS GRAY...
BUT WHY DID YOU COME TO ASK ME AND NOT HIM? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU?
!
N-n-not really!
DID HE HAPPEN TO PIN YOU DOWN BY ANY CHANCE?
Pin me-!?
GRAY RING-MARC DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ALICE!?
PIN HER DOWN!?
ELLIOT!
AHHH!!!
THAT HE WOULD LAY A HAND ON HIS BOSS'S GUEST-!
I NEVER TOOK HIM FOR SUCH A GUY!
UNBELIEVABLE!

WELL, IT IS TRUE THAT THAT LIZARD IS ONE RUTHLESS GUY.
AND I WISH I COULD SAY THAT WAS A STRENGTH OF HIS, BUT...
What do they mean by "laid a hand on," Brother?
What do they mean by "pinned down," Brother?
MY boss would never do something like that!
Right!?
I only wish that were the case...
(Wild)
COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF A GENTLEMAN LIKE BLOOD!
AND I'VE HEARD RUMORS HE'LL XXX AND XXXX!
Boss is popular too! Does he do that?
Whoooaa, how per-verted!
OF COURSE A GUY LIKE THAT IS GONNA XXXX A GIRL WHO APPROACHES HIM!
NO WAY!
THE GRAY I KNOW IS A MATURE GENTLEMAN.
THE INCUBUS'S AIDE.
Who are they talking about?

THEY MUST HAVE HIM MIXED UP WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
HMM, I WONDER ABOUT THAT.
DO YOU WANT IT TO BE A MIS-UNDER-STANDING?
.....
LEAN
YOUNG LADY.
BA-DUMP
Y-yes?
WELL?
WHAT EXACTLY DID HE DO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT DID HE DO...?
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYWAY.
Why does Blood have to look so similar to that guy?
HAHA.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO MIND THAT HE PINNED YOU DOWN.

IT MAKES ME JEALOUS...
Hey- wait a-
Blood!?
WHAT ELSE HAPPENED? ♡
YEEEK!
I'm watching, Brother!
Are you watching, Brother?
Where do you think you're touching!?
... Blood?
We should study them, Brother!
Yeah, it's a free lesson, Brother!
I GET IT NOW...
mutter
SO BLOOD'S...
THEN I'LL HAVE TO MAKE VARIOUS PREPARATIONS FOR...
mutter
Someone- HELP ME!
chuckle
ALL RIGHT!
WORRY NOT!

EVERY ONE WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HAVE YOU HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
I'LL TELL THE CHEF TO START ON THE WEDDING CAKE RIGHT NOW! ♡
You'll play with us more then, right? Right?
Big Sis is gonna live at the mansion?
SAY WHAT?!
WELL? WHEN'S THE CEREMONY GONNA BE? WHEN ARE YOU MOVING HERE, ALICE?
LEAVE EVERY THING TO ME!
BLOOD!
I HAVE NO RESER-VATIONS AT ALL MYSELF.
ISN'T THIS NICE?
CHUCKLE
I THINK A CERTAIN SOMEONE. OR RATHER, A CERTAIN RABBIT HAS MISUNDERSTOOD BIG TIME.
I'LL WEL-COME YOU TOO, YOU KNOW.
COME BY ANY TIME.

.....
I give up...
tmp
tmp
Even though Nightmare will need help.
I'm getting back later than I intended,
Oh-!
What should I do? My heart isn't ready for this...!
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

YOU WENT OUT?
EEP!
...YES.
GRAY REALLY IS MATURE...
.....
HE COULD JUST IGNORE ME IF HE DOESN'T LIKE ME, AFTER ALL...
A SCENT OF ROSES?
.....
PASS
Wait
ALICE?
BA-DUMP

I'M SORRY.
WHEN THIS ASSEMBLY IS OVER, I'LL BE MOVING TO THE HATTER MANSION.
THE HATTER MANSION?
... ALICE?
I'LL HELP UNTIL IT BEGINS!
SO SINCE NIGHTMARE IS REALLY BUSY,
THE ASSEMBLY IS ABOUT TO START,
YOU-
THE SCENT OF ROSES FROM EARLIER WAS FROM-!
What?
But please, Elaborate on that!
GRAB
I apologize,

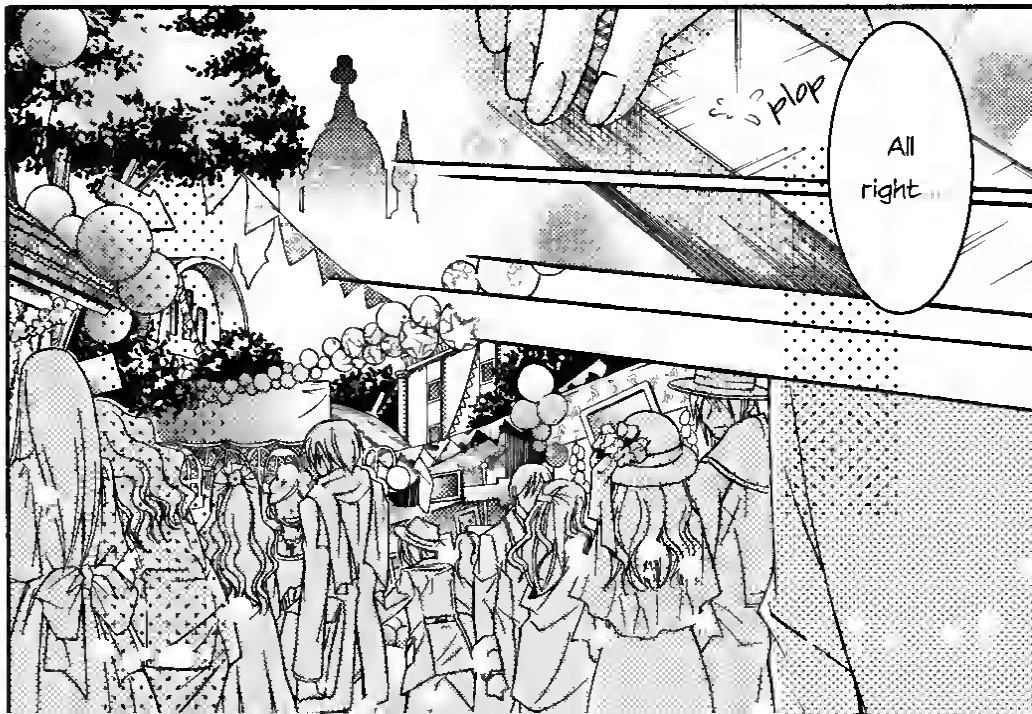
YANK
AH-!
TURN
START
I get it now...
...like that, see?
SWISH
sigh
Sir...?
?
.....

A... ALICE?
CLICK
JUMP
IT'S NO GOOD.
... DAMN IT.
Eek!
THUNK
SHHHK
EEEK!
KICK
SWISH
BAM
STOMP
STOMP
WELCOME HOME... Y-YOU SEEM IN- QUITE THE BAD MOOD...

GASP
ALICE?
A...
Haa...
Haa...
Oh no,
the chair!
GNLLER
One of the legs has a crack!!
What did I do?
FWUMP
JUST LEAVE IT BE, IT'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL SOON.
I'M THE WORST.
I BARGED IN AND THREW A TANTRUM LIKE A CHILD...
BUT... I'M SO SORRY ...
I JUST... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO... MY EMOTIONS ARE ALL A MESS!

All-
HOW ABOUT SOME COFFEE TO CALM DOWN?

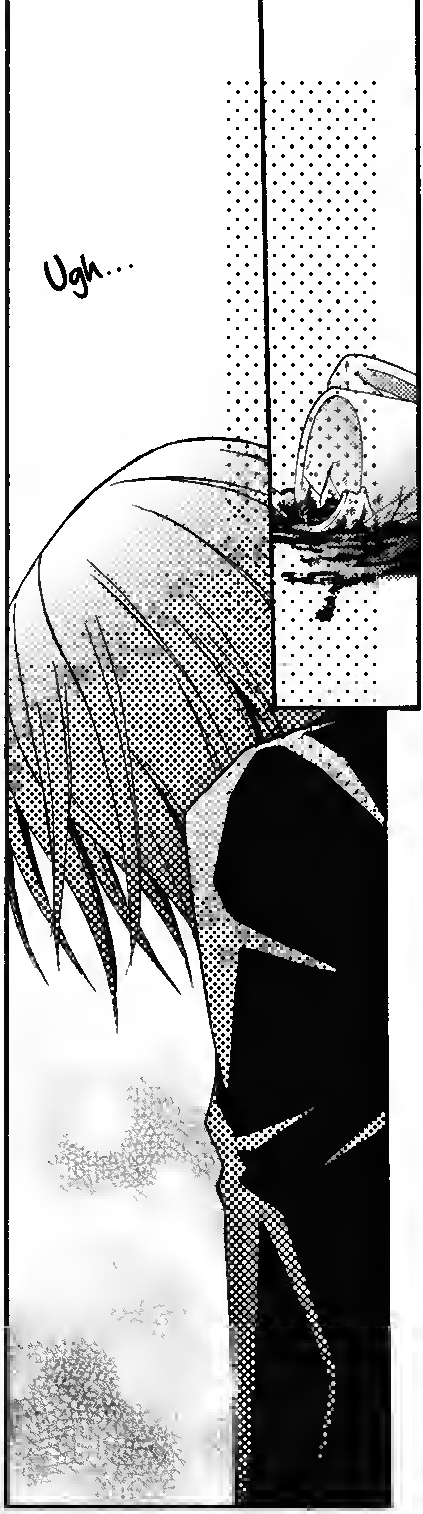
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
EVEN THAT PART OF YOU I LIKE.
ruffle

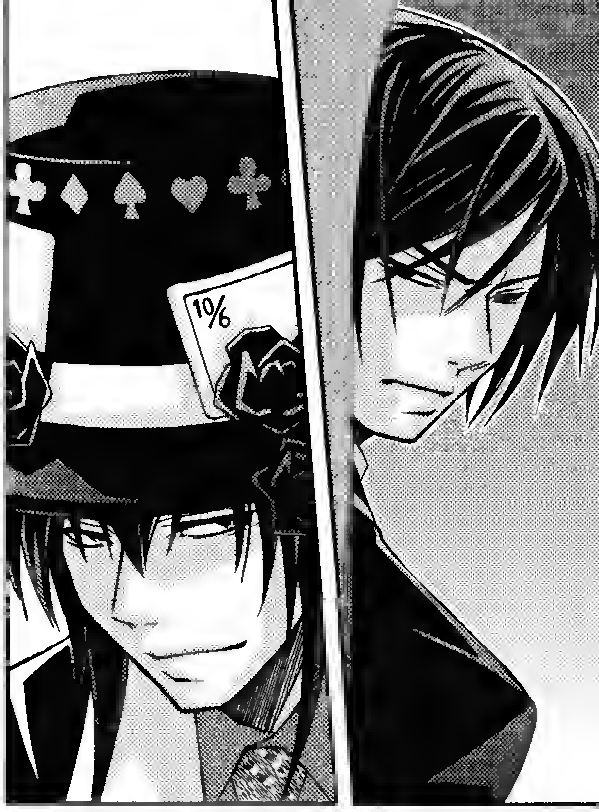

plop
All right...

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE TOWER!
IT'S LIKE A FESTIVAL!
THERE REALLY ARE PEOPLE WHO THINK OF THE ASSEMBLY LIKE THAT.
SINCE THE ASSEMBLY DOESN'T ACTUALLY HAVING A PURPOSE AND ALL.
I KNEW IT, THAT DRESS LOOKS GREAT ON YOU, ALICE.
THANK YOU.
YOU LOOK VERY COOL YOURSELF.
BIG SIIIIIS~!
EW!?
Freeze
THERE ARE ONLY TWO PEOPLE WHO CALL ME BIG SIS,
AND THEY'RE THE TWI-
OH, LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HERE!

DODGE
THUD THUD THUD
W-WHO ARE THEY!?
Hahaha!
WHAT'RE YOU TWO UP TO NOW?
E-ELLIOT!?
YOU KNOW THEM!?
OWW WW!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
WHY'D YOU DODGE!?
Big Sis, How could you be so mean!?
Did you forget about us!?
DEE! DUM! IT'S YOU TWO!?
It's like magic!
POP
POP

WHY HELLO THERE, YOUNG LADY.
I'M SORRY!
YOU LOOKED LIKE ADULTS, AFTER ALL..
BOO!
BOO!
THAT DRESS SUITS YOU VERY WELL INDEED.
B-BLOOD!
glance
So fluffy!
Big Sis, what about us?
You look more respectable than usual, Blood.
AND WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?


Ugh...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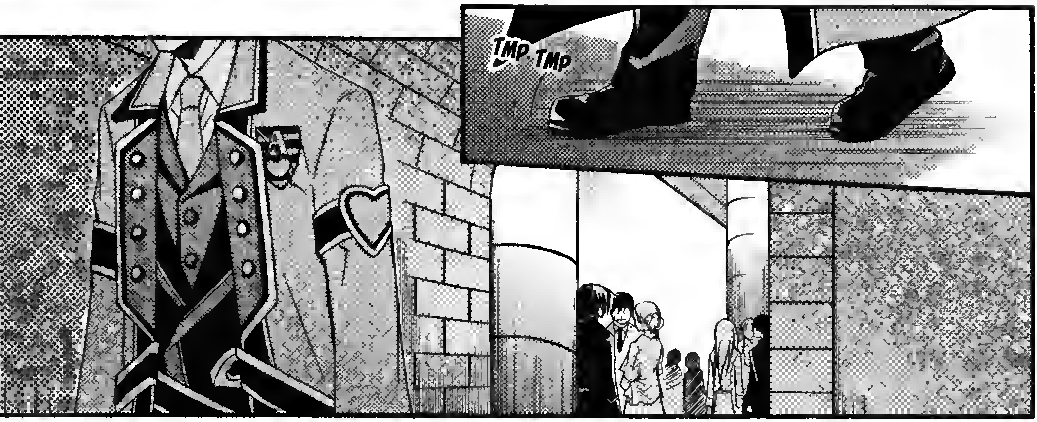
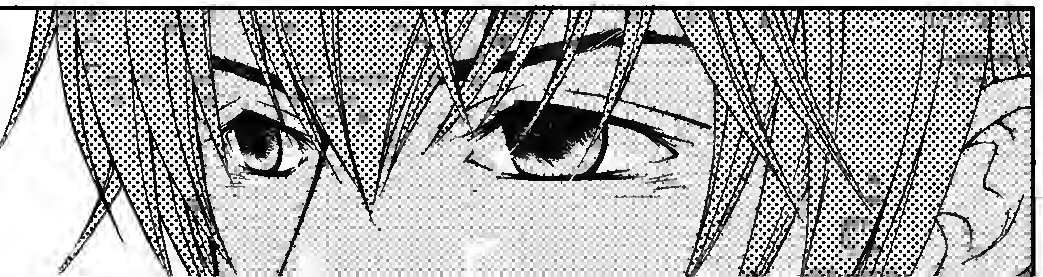
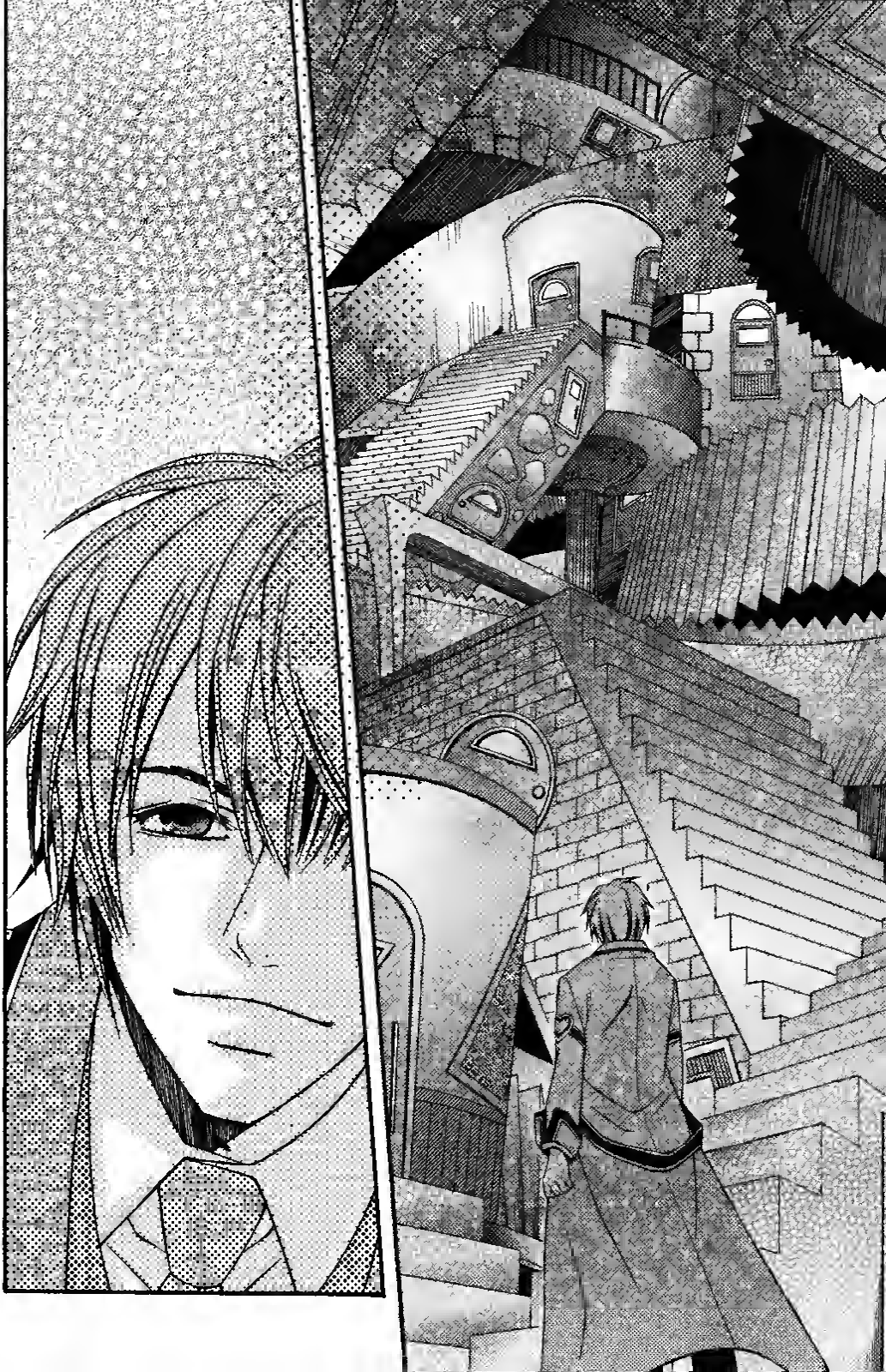
TCH

THUNK
I can't do it
.....
SPLAT
SPLAT


TMP TMP





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